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General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (b)
Sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 58/213 A, the General Assembly decided that the accreditation and participation of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, in the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, shall be in accordance with rule 65 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting, as contained in the note by the Secretary-General (A/58/567 and Corr.1). In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that non-governmental organizations whose work is relevant to the subject of the International Meeting that are not currently accredited by the Economic and Social Council may submit applications to participate as observers in the International Meeting, as well as its preparatory meeting, subject to the approval of the open-ended preparatory meeting.

2. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Division for Sustainable Development, requested all unaccredited non-governmental organizations and other major groups wishing to attend the International Meeting and its preparatory meeting to submit their applications, together with the required supplementary materials, for evaluation. The Division indicated that if the evaluation showed, on the basis of the information provided, that the stated purposes of the applicant organization were legitimate and its activities were relevant to the work of the International Meeting, the Division would recommend its accreditation to the Commission on Sustainable Development. In the case of a recommendation against accreditation, the Division would make its reasons available to the Commission, and would submit its recommendations on all requests for accreditation to Member States two weeks before the start of the preparatory meeting.

04-53700 (E) 121004

3. The Division had received a total of eight completed application packages by 1 March 2004. With support from the United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service, the Division reviewed the relevance of the work of each applicant on the basis of their background and involvement in sustainable development issues, particularly in the follow-up process to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The list of non-governmental organizations and other major groups recommended for accreditation by the Division (E/CN.17/2004/9) was approved for accreditation on 14 April 2004 by the open-ended preparatory meeting convened during the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

4. In its resolution 58/213 B, the General Assembly took note of the request by the Government of Mauritius to reschedule the International Meeting due to logistical considerations, and decided to convene the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States from 10 to 14 January 2005. In view of the rescheduling and in response to requests from non-governmental organizations, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Division for Sustainable Development, subsequently reopened the accreditation process to provide an additional opportunity for non-governmental organizations to submit applications to participate as observers in the International Meeting. Following the review procedures described above, the Division evaluated an additional 16 completed application packages received by 1 September 2004. A list of non-governmental organizations and other major groups recommended for accreditation by the Division in this round is contained in the annex for approval by the General Assembly.

5. Approval by the General Assembly will allow the non-governmental organizations and other major groups on the list to continue their preparations for the International Meeting, including making travel arrangements and soliciting funding support.

Annex

List of non-governmental organizations and other major groups recommended for accreditation to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

1. Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Fernandes Industrial Centre, Administration Building, Eastern Main Road, Laventille

Trinidad and Tobago

Tel: +868 626 6062

Fax: +868 626 1788

E-mail: vijay@canari.org

Website: www.canari.org

Established: 1984

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Analyses and promotes the participatory management of natural resources in the Caribbean through publications, technical assistance and training. Applied research and advocacy activities are carried out in collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders and other institutions, primarily in the areas of forestry, tourism, coastal resources, protected areas, and improving governance through civil society involvement in natural resource management.

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2. Community Development Programme Agency (CODEPA)

23, Royal Road, La Louise, Quatre Bornes, Mauritius

Tel/Fax: +230 427 5409

E-mail: codepa@intnet.mu, comupa@yahoo.com

Website: none

Established: 2000

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Aims to promote sustainable development within a network of community-based and development organizations in Mauritius and Rodrigues through: strengthening organizational management, development, and resource mobilization capacities; enhancing members' professional and technical capacities in policy and advocacy; providing consultancy services and training in community services at local, regional, and international levels in the field of research and development, implementation and evaluation of projects; and serving as a project clearinghouse through a Project Resource and Documentation Network.

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3. Environmental Concerns Action Network of Salomon Islands (ECANSI)

Room 49, NPF Plaza, Point Cruz, P.O. Box 327, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Tel: +677 28642

Fax: +677 28643

E-mail: ecansi@solomon.com.sb

Website: none

Established: May 2002

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Established by local professional and technical volunteers with a strong multidisciplinary composition, to: protect and conserve the environment and natural resources; foster environmental education awareness; research the impacts of development and human activities on the environment; disseminate appropriate information on environment; render legal and technical advice on environmental matters to government, non-governmental organizations and resource owners; and cooperate with environmental organizations and agencies for the promotion and implementation of common objectives and goals. Activities include training and awareness on coral reef management, dolphin trade, solid waste management, forestry and logging practices, women in fisheries and good governance.

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4. Fondation Comorienne des Droits de l'Homme

B.P. 310 Hapandré

Mutsamudu, Anjouan

Union des Comores

Tel: +269 71 15 43

Fax: +269 71 12 11

E-mail: fcdh@snpt.km

Website: none

Established: 1998

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Addresses issues of social justice, good governance and protection of human rights. Operates in partnership with local community groups within the Union des Comores to promote democracy and peace; defend civil, economic, social and cultural rights; protect the rights of the most vulnerable, including women and children; and encourage participatory governance processes. Works with the Union Interafricaine des Droits de l'Homme, UNDP and others in efforts to implement NEPAD and the MDGs. Local activities include civil society education, awareness-raising campaigns, workshops, debates, festivals, and participating in relevant international conferences addressing human rights and women's rights.

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5. Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI), The

6 Des Voeux Road, Suva, P.O. Box 18006, Suva, Fiji

Tel: +679 331 2250

Fax: +679 331 2298

E-mail: admin@fspi.org.fj

Website: www.fspi.org.fj

Established: 1965

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Works with communities throughout the South Pacific in developing people-centred programs to foster self-reliance and empowerment in decision-making processes, and serves as a regional coordinating body to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to local NGOs. Programmatic areas address community health, community-based natural resource management, sustainable livelihoods for poverty alleviation, and good governance.

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6. Island Conservation Society

Alphonse Building, Bois de Rose Avenue, P.O. Box 775, Victoria, Seychelles

Tel: +248 714488

Fax: none

E-mail: ics@seychelles.sc

Website: none

Established: 2001

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Promotes the conservation and restoration of island ecosystems, sustainable development of islands, and awareness of their vulnerability and vital importance to the planet's biodiversity. Supports conservation, rehabilitation and management of the Seychelles Islands; provides training on bird identification and field techniques; produces films, television programmes, books, educational materials, scientific publications and technical reports.

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7. Islands and Small States Institute

St. Paul Street, Valletta VLT 07, Malta

Tel/Fax: +356 21248218

E-mail: islands@um.edu.mt

Website: http://home.um.edu.mt/islands/

Established: 1993

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Promotes research and training on economic, social, cultural, ecological and geographical aspects of islands and small states, and offers academic programmes leading to the degree of Master of Arts. Regularly collaborates with other international organizations to sponsor conferences, training workshops, and various other activities addressing issues related to islands and small states. Established the Malta Observatory for Sustainability Indicators, which is a comprehensive, user-oriented system for the collection, evaluation, storage and dissemination of data and information on the environment and sustainable development.

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8. Jamaica Environment Trust

Earth House, 11 Waterloo Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica

Tel: +876 960 3693; +876 906 9783

Fax: +876 926 0121

E-mail: jet@infochan.com

Website: www.jamentrust.org

Established: 1991

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Strives to ensure excellent stewardship of Jamaica's natural environment through a range of programmes designed to protect natural resources, increase environmental awareness and advocacy in civil society, and include environmental issues in national development planning. Main areas of work include establishment of the Schools' Environment Programme, which is the largest environmental education programme in Jamaica; coordination of a network of high school environmental clubs called the Student Environment Network; and organisation of field trips, environmental events, advocacy campaigns on specific environmental issues, and an annual beach cleanup.

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9. Les Mariannes Agro-Mechanical Cooperative Society Ltd.

Royal Road, Long Mountain, Mauritius

Tel/Fax: +230 2450957

E-mail: mbjhowry@hotmail.com

Website: none

Established: 1992

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Encourages the local production of large-scale food and fruit crops in order to reduce reliance on imports. Activities focus on the development of local cooperative societies to transport produce, cultivate and fertilize lands, manage and transport animal waste for composting, acquire modern equipment and tools, employ expert workers, and promote the economic interests of their members.

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10. Liaison Unit of Non-Governmental Organizations (LUNGOS)

PO Box 885, Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles

Tel: +248 225376

Fax: +248 225379/324792

E-mail: lungos@seychelles.net

Website: none

Established: 1989

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Coordinates the activities of a variety of NGOs in the Seychelles, provides a means for collective action at the national level while maintaining cooperation with government, and promotes networking at the international level. They have established four Commissions that serve to bring together like-minded NGOs that focus on concerns related to: peace; health and social welfare; women; youth and children; and socio-economic issues.

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11. Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF)

Grannum Road, Vacoas, Mauritius

Tel: +230 697 6097

Fax: +230 697 6512

E-mail: lraffray@mwf.intnet.mu or mlionnet@mwf.intnet.mu

Website: none

Established: 1984

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Focuses on protecting and conserving all forms of native fauna and flora of Mauritius, Rodrigues and the Outer Islands, by working closely with international conservation organizations as well as with the Government of Mauritius. Raises awareness on conservation, protection and husbandry of Mauritian native wildlife, and secures the future of the nation's native and endemic species through income generation and sound management of human, fiscal and capital resources.

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12. Mouvement pour l'Autosuffisance Alimentaire (MAA)

MAA, 5 Rue la Place, Rose Hill, Mauritius

Tel: +230 4660271

Fax: +230 4641417

E-mail: maa_eric@hotmail.com

Website: none

Established: 1986

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Promotes the food security of families of the most vulnerable groups to meet their nutritional needs; empowers the poor and marginalized communities and facilitates their actions towards sustainable development; and advocates that the realization of food security be the central objective of agricultural and food policies and of local, regional and international trade.

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13. Nature Seychelles

The Conservation and Education Centre Roch Caiman, P.O. Box 1310, Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles

Tel: +248 601100

Fax: none

E-mail: nature@seychelles.net

Website: www.nature.org.sc

Established: 1998

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Aims to improve the conservation of biodiversity through scientific, management, educational and training programs in the Seychelles and the Indian Ocean region. Activities include species monitoring, local environment action programs, network development, capacity building, fundraising, communications and advocacy, and environmental education for youth.

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14. New Zealand Institute of Gene Ecology (NZGE)

University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch 8020, New Zealand

Tel: +64 3 364 2926

Fax: +64 3 364 2590

E-mail: jack.heinemann@canterbury.ac.nz

Website: www.nzige.canterbury.ac.nz

Established: 2001

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Established as research and teaching unit of the University of Canterbury, situated in the School of Biological Sciences (SBS). Serves as an independent research institute addressing application and impacts of biotechnology; advocates the safe application of publicly responsible technologies; and facilitates training of New Zealanders who participate in the development, regulation or use of new biotechnologies and risk analysis in its broadest sense. Also facilitates training for the regulatory and science communities, civil society and political leaders, and global NGO communities, with special emphasis on countries that have ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

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15. Resource Unit for Urban and Regional Planning

Urban and Regional Planning Programme, University of Technology, 237 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6, Jamaica

Tel: +876 977 0177

Fax: +876 702 4935

E-mail: carcher@utech.edu.jm

Website: www.utech.edu.jm/

Established: 1984

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Provides technical, research and development assistance to support proper land management and land use practices in Jamaica and other Caribbean islands. Collaborates with communities and government officials to address problems and encourage interdisciplinary approaches through environmental planning and management, sustainable community development, geographic information systems and remote sensing, transportation planning, housing and settlement policy analysis.

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16. Terre Nouvelle

138 Rue Bingla, B.P. 80175, Tokoin-Hopital, Lomé, Togo, West Africa

Tel: +228 948 6172/ 902 9958

Fax: +228 222 8817

E-mail: novaterra_tg@yahoo.fr

Website: www.terrenouvellekabissa.com

Established: April 2003

Summary of Organizational Focus and Activities: Seeks to mobilise youth in achieving sustainable development. Activities include encouraging youth to participate in sustainable development processes; promoting environmental protection, education, biosafety and biodiversity; fostering peaceful conflict resolution; and raising awareness on international cooperation regarding the role of technology and communications in youth development. Promotes, creates and disseminates editorials produced by young people, and supports implementation of international and regional treaties, agreements and conventions pertaining to sustainable development and information networks.

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5 October 2004

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Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 45
Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Letter dated 4 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Yangtze Declaration, which was adopted at the International Forum on Population and Development, held in Wuhan, China, from 7 to 9 September 2004 (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 45.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations

04-53653 (E) 081004

Annex to the letter dated 4 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

YANGTZE DECLARATION

International Forum on Population and Development

-- Implementation of ICPD/PoA and MDGs

7-9 September 2004, Wuhan, China

We, the members of an alliance of developing countries, Partners in Population and Development, composed of m ore than half of the population of the world and a fifth of its land area and many other developing countries, attended the 2004 International Forum on Population and Development. The meeting took place in Wuhan near the Yangtze River where the splendid Chinese civilization and culture originated in order to review the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD/PoA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in our countries on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of both the ICPD and that of Partners in Population and Development. At the end of three-days deliberation, we adopted this Declaration in the spirit of "Peace, Cooperation and Development". We commit ourselves to honour, promote respect and implement this Declaration for the cause of sustainable development and human civilization.

We the participants:

Appreciate the achievements made by the alliance in elevating South-South Cooperation by strengthening individual and institutional capacity with respect to strategic leadership, policy dialogue and management of population, reproductive health and development programmes.

Note with satisfaction the international recognition of our efforts by the UN awarding the alliance with Permanent Observer Status through resolution 57/29 of the United Nations General Assembly in 2002 and specific recognition of Partners by the 21st Special Session of the General Assembly in a statement contained in paragraph 88 of the ICPD +5 in 1999, dedicated to South-South cooperation.

I

1. **Emphasize** the need for governments and the international community to demonstrate strong political will, commitment to fully realize the potential for South-South Cooperation with special attention to the problem of the most vulnerable, including those residing in the Least Developed Countries which are experiencing high rates of population growth and extreme levels of persistent poverty.

2. **Reaffirm** our strong commitment to the principles, objectives and actions contained in the ICPD/PoA as strategic directions for attaining the MDGs.

3. **Call upon** the international community in particular the OECD countries, the international finance institutions, to place population and reproductive health issues high on the international agenda to enable the smooth implementation of the ICPD/ PoA and the ultimate attainment of the MDGs.

4. **Further call upon** the international community to support UNFPA and other UN organizations involved in population and development in extending greater assistance to developing countries for further implementation of ICPD/PoA and MDGs.

II

1. **Note with concern that:**
   i. The number of people living below a dollar a day in the world has doubled to 2.2 billion during the last decade of the 20thcentury even though the total global income has increased by 2.5% during the same period; and that 10% (300 million) of the population of the alliance lives on less than a dollar a day;

   ii. Access to quality reproductive health services, in particular family planning, in the majority of the member countries is still very poor, with high levels of unmet need resulting in unwanted pregnancy, high fertility and unsafe abortion;

iii. Maternal mortality followed by infant and child mortality constitute the greatest burden and threat to women and children, with 55% of all global maternal deaths occurring in the countries of the alliance that could easily be prevented;

iv. The alliance countries contribute 50% to the global HIV/AIDS burden with a decline in life expectancy and economic productivity. Most of the new HIV infections are related to inadequate reproductive health services;

v. Globally, 1.2 billion adolescents aged 10-24 years are entering adulthood, giving rise to immense pressure on services, information and commodity needs regarding adolescent sexual and reproductive health;

vi. Gender inequality and inequity are prevalent in the alliance countries characterised by the majority of women, especially poor ones, having highly inadequate access to education, proper health care, gainful employment and social security systems;

vii. Illiteracy is prevalent in at least 50 % of the member countries where 115 million children are not enrolled in primary school, and whom 57% are girls;

viii. Several developing countries are already facing a population ageing problem, and that globally the number of persons aged 60 years and over will increase from 600 million to nearly 2 billion, doubling their proportion from 10 to 21 percent by 2050. The increase will be greatest and most rapid in developing countries.

2. **Fully understand** that the above challenges cannot be met and sustained unless we the members of the alliance of developing countries work together to develop a human centred perspective and good governance.

3. **Call upon** governments and international agencies to take all possible steps to more fully integrate the sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS

programmes, particularly with respect to measures to prevent the further spread of HIV infections.

4. **Call upon** UN member governments and the international community to accord due importance to integral relationship between reproductive health and the poverty alleviation, in the context of MDG + 5 in 2005.

5. **Encourage** a review of policy, legislative and programme requirements to improve the access of women to secure livelihoods and economic resources, alleviate their heavy housework burden, remove legal impediments to women ' s participation in public life, and raise social awareness through effective programmes of education and mass communication; to adopt reforms for eliminating all forms of exploitation, abuse, harassment and violence against women; ensure personnel policies and practices, comply with the principle of equitable representation of both sexes, especially at the managerial and policy-making levels and eliminate gender-based disparities in income, in all programmes including population and development. Likewise, an environment that facilitates male responsibility in reproductive and sexual health should be fostered. Furthermore, the issue of ageing should be addressed to create an environment for active, healthy ageing.

6. **Commit** ourselves to use best practices and share resources including reproductive health commodities, among developing countries for effective reproductive health policies, programmes and services aimed at improving the quality of life of women, men and children.

7. **Resolve** to review and harmonise policies, legislation, programmes and services that limit the access of adolescents and youths to full information and care and involve adolescents and youth in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of related youth programmes. We also resolve to encourage the young people to lead the planning, designing, implementations and monitoring and evaluation of adolescent and youth programmes in partnership with adults.

8. **Urge** all Governments and other relevant organizations, including bilateral and multilateral donors, the United Nations system, International financial Institutions, NGOs, civil society and the private sector, to pursue efforts at all levels including strengthened partnerships to intensify the implementation of ICPD/PoA and MDGs.

III

1. **We note with concern that:**

   i. The budgetary goals for implementing ICPD/PoA set in 1994 were US$ 17 billion by 2000 and US$18.5 billion by 2005, of which 2/3 was to come from developing countries and 1/3 from developed countries and that while until the end of 2003, developing countries had met 92% of the target, developed countries had met only 50% of the target.

   ii. To reach some of the key goals set in the Millennium Declaration, particularly poverty eradication, an annual investment of US$66 billion by the year 2007 is needed, which means that the developing countries would have to increase budgetary spending on health by an additional 1% of GNP by 2007 and 2% by 2015 (US$35 billion and US$63 billion respectively), which is unaffordable to most developing countries.

   iii. In 2003, the world cannot ensure the disbursement of 65 billion dollars for poverty reduction or 5 billion dollars to improve reproductive health including family planning and the prevention of HIV/AIDS in the face of emerging global concerns such as security currently costing 900 billion dollars a year.

2. **Urge** developed countries to increase their Official Development Assistance (ODA) as per the international agreement, which is 0.7% of GNP of OECD countries and generate US$200 billion, an amount that will be more than enough to close the financial gap preventing countries from meeting the goals set out at the ICPD and the Millennium Summit.

3. **Recognize** that both the ICPD/PoA and MDGs are comprehensive and human centred, and provide strategic directions to socio-economic development, prevention of HIV/AIDS, maternal, infant and child health and universal education with particular attention to the cross-cutting theme of women empowerment and gender equality and equity including the education of the girl child and women participation in labour force.

4. **Strongly commit** ourselves to promote, execute, follow up and monitor the implementation of this Yangtze Declaration which will immensely contribute to the attainment of ICPD goals and MDGs, particularly in low income and least developed countries.